

ASAP Africa & CARE partnership in Zimbabwe

ASAP Africa and CARE have been working in partnership in Zimbabwe since 2001 implementing the Internal Savings and Lending Project (IS&L). Currently two projects are ongoing.

Kufusa Mari in Nyanga and Mutasa Districts

Mrs. Portia Chitendeni explains, “We are three in our club and in October last year we borrowed zwd 90,000 from the project. It was not easy because we were grappling with inflation, but we managed to buy 6 kgs of sugar that we



exchanged with three buckets of maize. We sold them at 600 Rand and we changed 50 Rand for us to return the zwd 90,000 we had borrowed. We sent someone to South Africa to buy some blankets and from there up to date we are buying and selling property. We never lack anything to eat or school fees for our children and our husbands are really supportive of this project. The Kufusa Mari Project has really changed our lives.”

ASAP is privileged to be working to improve the household and food security for over 17,800 families like Portia’s by 2011, through the Microfinance Project 2 (MFP2); a five year partnership with CARE in Nyanga and Mutasa districts. From 2004-6 ASAP helped over 12,000 families in Nyanga area to form and manage savings clubs. In this second phase of this project ASAP will continue working to further strengthen and diversify these existing rural business activities. The clients are over 80% economically active poor women and ASAP will including training in business selection, planning and management.

The MFP2 will advance by stages into a holistic community livelihood support program by introducing other life skills as requested by the community. At project gatherings called field days - a local celebration and sharing of achievement & success – ASAP staff takes the opportunity to discuss important social issues with members, such as women’s rights, child protection and to share skills that will improve daily life in the rural village.

The Joint Initiative Project

The goal of this nation-wide collaborative project is to restore dignity and reduce suffering for the most vulnerable people in urban and peri-urban areas throughout Zimbabwe. ASAP’s role in this project is to improve and diversify the income for 945 people. Ongoing since 2006, ASAP has shown that the IS&L model, can be effectively adapted to address the needs in the urban area outside of Mutare. As Plexus Mashava, pictured on the right testifies, the results have been spectacular!

